



# *The Update:*

## News and Information for MA Early Intervention Providers

March 2012

Welcome to the Winter Edition of "The Update." This is a periodic newsletter focusing specifically on issues and information in MA Early Intervention. This issue highlights Scholarships Now Available for MEIC Conference; Connecting Families with the EIPLP; Family Rights Notice; All CEIS Manual and Application Materials Are Now Available Online; CEIS 2012 On-line Support Modules; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Funds; Out of Catchment Services; and, NCSEAM Family Survey.

### Scholarships Now Available for MEIC Conference!

The Early Intervention Training Center is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships for the 2012 MEIC Conference May 9 and 10 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA. These scholarships are made possible by an ongoing training grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Each Early Intervention Program will receive a scholarship for one **two-day registration** (Wednesday and Thursday) for **one staff person** from their program (a value of \$199). Programs may not split registration days or split registration among staff.

Please note: Fees for Continuing Education Credit are not included in the scholarship and must be paid separately by attendees at the time of registration. Registration must be completed **online** by **April 6, 2012** - the Early Bird Registration deadline.

Program Directors may register staff at [web.percs.info](http://web.percs.info). EITC will forward a voucher code to Program Directors next week when registration

opens, along with information about registration and paying for Continuing Education Credits.

The voucher code is confidential and strictly limited to one registration. At the time of registration, please forward to Holly Newman at [holly.newman@state.ma.us](mailto:holly.newman@state.ma.us) the name of the staff member, from your program, who will be attending.



We encourage program directors and staff to view the Conference brochure at [www.maeic.net](http://www.maeic.net) or [web.percs.info](http://web.percs.info) for more information about this invaluable educational event featuring Keynote Presenter, Howard Glasser, founder of the Children's Success Foundation and the Nurtured Heart Approach


creator.

As a reminder, the EI Parent Leadership Project is continuing their support of one parent from each program to attend the MEIC Conference. To learn more, visit [www.eiplt.org](http://www.eiplt.org), call 877-353-4757 or email us [eiplt@yahoo.com](mailto:eiplt@yahoo.com). Parents must register through the EIPLP to receive this benefit.

### Connecting Families With the EIPLP

The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project, with funding from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, produces five yearly issues of the *Parents' Perspective* newsletter. This free newsletter, available electronically and in print, is written by parents, for parents of children who are or have been in early intervention, early intervention providers and interested others. It provides information about the early intervention system and about opportunities for family involvement in the system. There is also a resource section and calendar of training opportunities, conferences and workshops.

### Family Rights Notice

 As of **January 1, 2011**, programs should place orders for **Family Rights Notices** with Mary Dennehy-Colorusso, Director, Office of Family Rights and Due Process. Programs may order Family Rights Notices by e-mail ([mary.dennehy-colorusso@state.ma.us](mailto:mary.dennehy-colorusso@state.ma.us)) or by sending a fax to 978-640-1027. Programs are reminded that the notice must be given to families at key points during a family's participation and enrollment, including eligibility determination, IFSP development/subsequent reviews and whenever there is a change proposed by the IFSP team to the child's early intervention services.

## All CEIS Manual and Application Materials Are Now Available Online

**C**EIS Applicants may now go to [www.mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention](http://www.mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention) and click on the link to "The Early Intervention Training Center (EITC)". Click on "Professional Development" and then "Certification" to find the Manual, entitled *Certification for Early Intervention Specialists, January 2012*.

The Manual includes all summaries, instructions, and interactive forms, plus useful checklists and a glossary.

The DPH will accept portfolios in the CEIS 2012 format beginning July 1, 2012. As of January 1, 2014, all portfolios must be submitted in the CEIS 2012 format. Applicants submitting between those dates may choose either the CEIS 2002 or the CEIS 2012 format.

The Certification pages also contain links to other useful documents, including **"Competencies Awarded by Workshops 2012"** and **"Cross-walk of 2012 and 2002 Competency Indicators."**

CEIS 2002 application materials (*Certification for Early Intervention Specialists, July 2002, Reprinted September 2004, March 2006 and November 2008* ("The Green Book")) continue to be available on the Certification pages as well.



## CEIS 2012 On-line Support Modules

The Early Intervention Training Center has developed two on-line modules to support programs and staff in understanding the revised process for Early Intervention Certification – 2012:

[Certification for Early Intervention Specialists – 2012](#)  
[How to complete a CEIS Portfolio in 3 years](#)

This module summarizes the process of completing an application for certification as a Massachusetts Early Intervention Specialist. The module provides an overview and suggestions for identifying supports that are available to the applicant in completing the process. It also provides a time line that can be used as a guide, during the application process, in order to support its completion in a three year time frame.

[The Role of the Supervisor in the CEIS 2012 Portfolio Process](#)

This module summarizes the role of supervisors in supporting individuals during the process of completing an application for certification as a Massachusetts Early Intervention Specialist. The module provides an overview of supervisory roles and responsibilities in assisting CEIS candidates. It also provides a time frame that can be used as a guide in assisting staff during the application process.

These modules can be accessed by logging onto the Early Intervention Training Center web site at [www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org) and clicking on "workshop registration" or following the links above. If you have questions or need further information, please contact Jean Nigro at [jean.nigro@state.ma.us](mailto:jean.nigro@state.ma.us) or 978-851-7261 Extension 4041.



## Out of Catchment Services

### The DPH no longer requires Early Intervention Programs to submit the Out of Catchment Notification forms to their Regional Specialists

Programs may enroll children from out of catchment, when they have the capacity to meet the individual needs of the child and family in the home or other community setting. In addition, programs must continue to inform families, in writing, of the program that serves the town in which they reside. EIPs are responsible for providing individualized services to families as outlined in the IFSP. Occasionally this means that services may be provided outside of the service area of the program. Programs are encouraged to consider requests for out of catchment services on an individualized basis.



Families should be kept informed of their rights as well as the accepted standards established by DPH in terms of catchment area. The Department is not obligated to support out of catchment transportation. However, individual requests to the vendor and/or transportation unit will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact your Regional Specialist if you need any additional information.

#### ***Strategies for Collaboration:***

- ***It can be challenging*** when a child who resides in your catchment area is in full time child care, outside of the catchment area. Families are challenged to balance employment with the needs of their child. EI providers are challenged by the obligation to ensure the timely provision of IFSP services.

An eligible child is entitled to the IFSP services necessary to meet the measurable outcomes and results identified in the IFSP. Ultimately, the program which serves the community in which the child resides is responsible to provide IFSP services. While Part C regulations note exceptions for the timely completion of an evaluation/assessment, the regulations do not provide examples or exemption for not providing services to an eligible child. Programs are responsible for providing services within the catchment area. However, a child is “available” to access EI services even if they are out of the catchment area – their eligibility and entitlement to service is not affected by where they spend their day.

- ***The call you receive today may be the call you place tomorrow.*** While you are not obligated to assume responsibility for IFSP services for a child enrolled in another program, you may be able to provide alternative resources.
- ***Collaborate and communicate.*** Within each region, there is typically at least one program which has several child care providers in the area. An open conversation with the leadership at other programs (who in turn may choose to have an open dialogue with staff within their programs) may identify a staff person available to meet the needs of the child.
- ***Share Responsibilities.*** Programs should determine a plan for service coordination and communication, particularly as transition approaches. The program responsible for providing a service may:
  - ⇒ need to strategize with families for short term solutions, as services outside the catchment area are arranged
  - ⇒ continue to provide service coordination either through direct (face-to-face) or indirect (telephone) contact
  - ⇒ allow the program providing ongoing IFSP services to assume all responsibilities for service coordination (family would enroll as “out of catchment”) and become the provider as the child readies for transition as long as it would meet everyone’s needs.

## Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Funds

As noted in the February edition of The Update, The Departments of Public Health (DPH) and Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) have engaged in an Interagency Service Agreement (ISA) to support the Early Intervention system. Funds will be provided to purchase additional Battelle kits and Assessment tools for programs, to support the eligibility category of Clinical Judgment and ongoing clinical practice. The Department is in the process of identifying domain specific tools to support ongoing assessment and program planning for children enrolled in EI. The following is a list of supplemental assessment tools that the Department is considering purchasing:

### LANGUAGE:

Preschool Language Scale V/Pearson Assessments - English + Spanish  
MacArthur-Bates Communicative Developmental Inventories/Singular Publishing Group

### FINE and GROSS MOTOR:

Peabody Developmental Motor Scale 2/Wester Psychological Services  
Infant/Toddler Sensory Profile/Pearson Assessments

### SOCIAL EMOTIONAL

Vineland Social Emotional Early Childhood Scales/American Guidance Service  
Ages & Stages Questionnaire – Social Emotional/Brookes Publishing  
Greenspan Social Emotional Growth Chart/Pearson

### GENERAL DEVELOPMENT & CURRICULUM PLANNING

Hawaii Early Learning Profile/VORT Corporation



The Department would like your input regarding additional tools that programs are interested in using as either a supplemental tool to support the eligibility category of clinical judgment, or for ongoing curriculum planning purposes. Please notify Patti Fougere at [patti.fougere@state.ma.us](mailto:patti.fougere@state.ma.us) by March 20, 2012, of any additional tools that you would like to add to support clinical practice. Additional information will be forthcoming regarding the process for ordering and disseminating the assessment tools.

## NCSEAM Family Survey Update

**March is Family Survey month.** Please share the narrated PowerPoint presentation highlighting the importance of the survey with staff and families. This new resource has been developed by the Parent Leadership Project as a result of feedback received from the Focused Monitoring process, and the Early Childhood Outcomes Stakeholders regarding the need to raise awareness of how and why we collect data on the federal Family Outcomes.

The PowerPoint is posted on the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project website, [www.eiplp.org](http://www.eiplp.org) under the What's New: Post-it Note section along with the 10 Most Frequently Asked Questions about



the Family Survey. It is also available on YouTube on a private channel that can only be accessed by using this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-G0khHXBIY>

Each program will receive a DVD version of the PowerPoint and a laminated sheet of the Top 10 FAQs in early March. We hope this resource will be helpful to your dissemination efforts.

Information about the number of Surveys your program distributes should be sent to DPH on the sheet provided by Monday, April 16, 2012.

**Comments and questions to:**  
**Patti Fougere**  
**Assistant Director of Early Childhood Programs**  
**617-624-5975**  
[patti.fougere@state.ma.us](mailto:patti.fougere@state.ma.us)